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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
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July 6, 2004

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HUDSON  
LYNDSEY GROUP HOME, CARLIN**

We have completed a review of Carlin Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Hudson Lyndsey Group Home. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Carlin Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 7-15 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Carlin Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children. Carlin Group Home is located in the Second District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Group Home needs to make a few repairs to its facility; provide age appropriate play equipment for the younger residents; and provide residents with a computer.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's Group Home Ombudsman within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact DeWitt Roberts at (626) 293-1101.

JTM:DR:CC:gw

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer  
Diana Mitchell, Executive Director, Hudson Lyndsey Group Home  
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Hudson Lyndsey Group Home, Carlin**  
**3583 Carlin Avenue**  
**Lynwood, CA 90262**  
**310-669-9114**  
**License No.: 197800845**  
**Rate Classification Level: 9**

**I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Carlin Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is located in a residential neighborhood in Lynwood. The overall condition of the Group Home is adequate. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there are a few areas that need improvement.

The walls in the dayroom are dirty and the kitchen floor tiles are cracked.

In bedroom number one, one dresser is badly scratched, and there are no mattress pads on the beds. In bedroom number two, there is writing on the interior of the closet and a bleach stain on the carpet. One bed has a plastic mattress pad that is badly torn, and the other bed does not have a mattress pad. In bedroom number three, the beds do not have mattress pads, and one mattress sags in the middle.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment for the older residents. There is also a TV, and a VCR. There are books and resource materials; however, the residents' computer is broken.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. Hudson Lyndsey Group Home management:**

- a. Clean the walls in the dayroom.**
- b. Replace the cracked kitchen floor tiles.**
- c. Repair or replace the dresser in bedroom number one.**
- d. Place mattress pads on all residents' beds.**
- e. Remove the writing from the closet interior in bedroom number two.**
- f. Replace stained carpet in bedroom number two.**
- g. Replace the mattress in bedroom number three.**
- h. Provide age-appropriate play equipment for the younger residents.**
- i. Provide a computer for residents' use.**

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was appropriate documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports for residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional, and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular weekly individual and/or group therapy.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Residents are attending school. There are current Individualized Educational Plans for both residents who require Special Education services. Both records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed.

The residents are too young for emancipation services and are not employed.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for six case files**

### **Comments:**

Residents have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with an opportunity to maintain photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**